United Nations

FCCC/TRR.1/BEL

Framework Convention on Climate Change

Distr.: General
23 February 2015

English only

Report of the technical review of the first biennial report of Belgium

Developed country Parties are requested, in accordance with decision 2/CP.17, to submit their first biennial report to the secretariat by 1 January 2014. This report presents the results of the technical review of the first biennial report of Belgium conducted by an expert review team in accordance with the "Guidelines for the technical review of information reported under the Convention related to greenhouse gas inventories, biennial reports and national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention".

GE.15-03390

1503390

Please recycle

Contents

		Paragraphs	*Page*
I.	Introduction and summary	1–10	3
	A. Introduction	1–5	3
	B. Summary	6–10	3
II.	Technical review of the reported information	11–42	4
	A. All greenhouse gas emissions and removals related to the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target	11–13	4
	B. Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target	14–17	5
	C. Progress made towards the achievement of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target	18–32	6
	D. Provision of financial, technological and capacity-building support to developing country Parties	33–42	10
III.	Conclusions	43–51	13
Annex			
	Documents and information used during the review		15

I. Introduction and summary

A. Introduction

1. For Belgium, the Convention entered into force on 15 April 1996. Under the Convention, Bulgaria made a commitment to contribute to the joint European Union (EU) economy-wide emission reduction target of a 20.0 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions below the 1990 level by 2020.

2. This report covers the in-country technical review of the first biennial report (BR1)[1] of Belgium, coordinated by the secretariat, in accordance with the "Guidelines for the technical review of information reported under the Convention related to greenhouse gas inventories, biennial reports and national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention" (decision 23/CP.19).

3. The review took place from 3 to 8 November 2014 in Brussels, Belgium, and was conducted by the following team of nominated experts from the UNFCCC roster of experts: Ms. Violeta Hristova (Bulgaria), Mr. Qiang Liu (China), Ms. Dace Lodzina (Latvia) and Ms. Anna Romanovskaya (Russian Federation). Mr. Liu and Ms. Romanovskaya were the lead reviewers. The review was coordinated by Mr. Nalin Srivastava (secretariat).

4. During the review, the expert review team (ERT) reviewed each section of the BR1.

5. In accordance with decision 23/CP.19, a draft version of this report was communicated to the Government of Belgium, which provided comments that were considered and incorporated, as appropriate, into this final version of the report.

B. Summary

6. The ERT conducted a technical review of the information reported in the BR1 of Belgium according to the "UNFCCC biennial reporting guidelines for developed country Parties" (hereinafter referred to as the UNFCCC reporting guidelines on BRs).

7. During the review, Belgium provided further relevant information, for example on the major drivers of emissions; changes in its domestic institutional arrangements; difficulties in developing a 'without measures' projection; progress made in developing projections up to 2030; the methodologies and assumptions used to develop projections; progress in the development of the mechanisms for tracking private finance flow; trends in flows of financial resources; and technology support for developing country Parties.

1. Completeness and transparency of reporting

8. Gaps and issues related to the reported information identified by the ERT are presented in table 1 below.

2. Timeliness

9. The BR1 was submitted on 12 February 2014, after the deadline of 1 January 2014 mandated by decision 2/CP.17. The common tabular format (CTF) tables were submitted on 12 February 2014. During the review, Belgium explained that the reason for the delay

[1] The biennial report submission comprises the text of the report and the common tabular format (CTF) tables. Both the text and the CTF tables have been subject to the technical review.

was that some information related to CTF tables 5 and 7 was not available by the end of 2013. The ERT noted with concern the delay in the submission of the BR1 and CTF tables and recommends that Belgium submit the next biennial report (BR) and CTF tables within the deadline as mandated by the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

3. Adherence to the reporting guidelines

10. The information reported by Belgium in its BR1 is mostly in adherence to the UNFCCC reporting guidelines on BRs as per decision 2/CP.17 (see table 1).

Table 1
Summary of completeness and transparency issues of reported information in the first biennial report of Belgium[a]

Sections of the biennial report	*Completeness*	*Transparency*	*Reference to paragraphs*
Greenhouse gas emissions and trends	Complete	Transparent	
Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target	Mostly complete	Mostly transparent	16, 17
Progress in achievement of targets	Mostly complete	Transparent	24
Projections	Mostly complete	Transparent	29
Provision of support to developing country Parties	Mostly complete	Mostly transparent	33, 40, 41

[a] A list of recommendations pertaining to the completeness and transparency issues identified in this table is included in the chapter on conclusions and recommendations.

II. Technical review of the reported information

A. All greenhouse gas emissions and removals related to the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

11. Belgium has provided a summary of information on GHG emission trends for the period 1990–2011 in its BR1 and CTF table 1. This information is consistent with the 2013 national GHG inventory submission. The ERT took note of the 2014 annual submission, the relevant information of which is included in this report.

12. Total GHG emissions[2] excluding emissions and removals from land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) decreased by 18.5 per cent between the base year (1990) and 2012, whereas total GHG emissions including net emissions or removals from LULUCF decreased by 19.0 per cent over the same period. GHG emission trends were driven by substantial gains in emission intensity of the economy caused by the switch from coal to natural gas, the promotion of renewable energy sources (RES) and energy efficiency measures. The closure of some iron and steel works over the past few years, a decrease in

[2] In this report, the term "total GHG emissions" refers to the aggregated national GHG emissions expressed in terms of carbon dioxide equivalent excluding land use, land-use change and forestry, unless otherwise specified.

the livestock population and changes in agricultural practices also led to a decrease in emissions. This more than offset the significant increase in emissions from the transport sector caused by the rise in the number of passenger cars and other vehicular traffic. Further information on the review of emissions and emission trends is provided in chapter II.A of the report of the technical review of the sixth national communication (IDR/NC6).

13. During the review, Belgium provided additional information, elaborating on the key category analysis of the GHG emissions and the factors underlying the emission trends of some key sectors, such as energy and industrial processes. However, Belgium did not provide information on how the total GHG emissions are split between emissions from sources covered by the European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) and emissions from sources not covered by the EU ETS (non-ETS). The ERT noted the usefulness of this information in enhancing the transparency of Belgium's reporting of GHG emissions and removals related to its target.

B. Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

14. In its BR1 and CTF table 2, Belgium reported a description of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target, referred to henceforth as the target, including associated conditions and assumptions.

15. The BR1 includes all of the information on the target required by the UNFCCC reporting guidelines on BRs. However, the ERT noted that a description of how the EU target translates into Belgium's national target for emissions not covered by the EU ETS in its next BR would greatly increase the transparency of the reporting on the target.

16. Under the Convention, Belgium participates in the EU target to achieve a 20.0 per cent reduction in emissions by 2020 compared with the 1990 (base year) level. The target for the EU and its member States is formalized in the EU's 2020 climate and energy package. This includes the EU ETS and the effort-sharing decision (ESD). This legislative package regulates emissions of carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF_6) using global warming potential (GWP) values from the Fourth Assessment Report (AR4)[3] of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to aggregate EU GHG emissions up to 2020. The target covers emissions from the energy, transport, industrial processes, agriculture, waste and aviation sectors, while the LULUCF sector is excluded. The ERT noted that the description of the target in the BR1 and CTF tables 2(a)–(f) includes nitrogen trifluoride (NF_3). However, the EU target, as contained in the documents FCCC/SB/2011/INF.1/Rev.1[4] and FCCC/AWGLCA/2012/MISC.1,[5] does not include NF_3. The ERT recommends that Belgium ensure consistency in the information on GHGs relating to its target in accordance with the EU target under the Convention in the next BR.

17. The regulation of the emissions covered by the EU ETS entered into force on 1 January 2005, and the new period started in 2013 based on a yearly reduction equal to 1.74 per cent of the average allocation in the period 2008–2012, extrapolated starting in 2010, leading to a 21.0 per cent GHG emission reduction by 2020 compared with the 2005

[3] The quantified economy-wide emission reduction target by Belgium is expressed using the GWP values from the AR4, while emission levels are assessed using the values from the IPCC Second Assessment Report as per the "Guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part I: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual greenhouse gas inventories".

[4] <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/sb/eng/inf01r01.pdf>.

[5] <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/awglca15/eng/misc01.pdf>.

level. As of 2013, emissions of sectors not covered by the EU ETS are regulated by member State specific targets, based on average emissions from 2008 to 2010 and on the gross domestic product (GDP), which leads to a collective reduction by all member States of 10.0 per cent by 2020 compared with the 2005 level at the EU level. Under the ESD, Belgium has a reduction target of 15.0 per cent by 2020 compared with the 2005 level for emissions from sectors covered by the ESD. In line with the EU approach to its target, Belgium does not include emissions or removals from the LULUCF sector in defining its target. Belgium indicated in the BR1 that the use of market-based mechanisms for the period 2013–2020 has not yet been determined and provided an explanation in the BR1. However, this information is not clearly provided in CTF tables 2(e)I and 2(e)II. The ERT recommends that Belgium provide transparent information on the possible contribution of market-based mechanisms under the Convention to the achievement of its target in its next submission of the BR and CTF tables using notation keys and footnotes, if necessary.

C. Progress made towards the achievement of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

18. In its BR1 and CTF tables 3 and 4, Belgium reported information on its mitigation actions implemented and planned since its fifth national communication (NC5) to achieve its target. Belgium reported on the use of units from market-based mechanisms and LULUCF to achieve its target. While the use of LULUCF is excluded from its target, Belgium has not clarified its use of units from the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms to reach its domestic target by 2020. According to its BR1, Belgium's use of units from the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms will be determined following the availability of data on the use of these units in the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol (2008–2012) and relevant GHG inventory data subject to the limits on their use under the directive on the EU ETS and the ESD.

19. The ERT reviewed the reported information and noted that on the basis of the BR1 it is difficult to assess the progress made towards the achievement of the EU-wide target. Across the EU, it is expected that the market mechanism of the EU ETS will guarantee that emissions from sectors under this scheme (mainly large point sources such as power plants and industrial facilities) will achieve the 2020 target of 21.0 per cent below the 2005 level. Under the ESD, Belgium has to reduce its emissions from sectors not covered under the EU ETS by 15.0 per cent by 2020 compared with the 2005 level. However, the ERT noted that there is no information in the BR1 on the emissions covered by the non-ETS sectors, which makes it difficult to assess the progress made towards the achievement of the emission reduction target for the non-ETS sectors. The ERT therefore noted that the separate reporting of information on the emissions from the ETS sectors and non-ETS sectors would greatly enhance the transparency of the reporting on Belgium's progress towards its target.

20. Based on its comparison with past sectoral trends, the greatest challenge for Belgium in meeting its target lies in reducing its emissions from the transport sector, with emissions from road transport being the key driver of these emissions. Belgium has many policies and measures (PaMs) in place for curbing the emissions from road transport, such as those promoting a modal shift to public transport.

1. Mitigation actions and their effects

21. Belgium has provided in its BR1 comprehensive and well-organized information on its package of mitigation actions introduced to achieve its target. The BR1 provided information on mitigation actions organized by sector and by gas. CTF table 3 largely reflects annex 3 to the sixth national communication (NC6) along with the expanded

description in chapter 4 of the NC6. A detailed review of the reported information is provided in chapter II.B of the IDR/NC6.

22. The National Climate Plan (NCP) contains a wide range of PaMs envisaged at the federal and regional levels across all sectors. The National Climate Commission is responsible for the regular monitoring and evaluation of the impact of PaMs in Belgium.

23. The ERT noted that because Belgium has reported the estimated mitigation impact for only a small number of PaMs, it is hard to identify the PaMs with the highest mitigation impact. From those for which the mitigation impacts are evaluated, green and/or combined heat and power (CHP) certificates in energy production yield the biggest emission reductions, followed by emission reduction agreements with nitric acid producers for reducing N_2O emissions and promoting public transport. The BR1 also contains a number of cross-cutting PaMs, including the EU ETS. The ERT noted that it is not clear to what extent double counting has been taken into consideration when assessing the effects of PaMs. Table 2 provides a concise summary of the key mitigation actions implemented by Belgium to achieve its target.

Table 2
Summary of information on mitigation actions reported by Belgium

Sectors affected	*List of key mitigation actions*	*Estimate of mitigation impact (kt CO_2 eq)*
Policy framework and cross-sectoral measures		
	EU ETS	NE
	Kyoto Protocol mechanisms	NE
Energy		
Energy production and conversion	Green certificates and combined heat and power certificates system	10 947 (2020) 8 241 (2015) 623.48 (2009)
Renewable energy sources	Action Plan for Renewable Energies and Cogeneration	2 356 (2020) 1 164 (2015) 30.48 (2009)
Energy efficiency, including residential and commercial building sectors	Long term energy/CO_2 efficiency agreements in the industrial sector	1 800 (2020) 856 (2015) 2 119 (2009)
	Energy performance and certification of buildings	147 (2020) 72 (2015) 2.44 (2009)
	Financial support to reduced energy use and renewable energy sources in the residential sector	1 823 (2020) 989 (2015) 3 552.40 (2009)
Transport	Improvement and promotion of public transport	3 440 (2020) 2 386 (2015) 1 473.25 (2009)
Industrial sectors		
Industrial processes	Specific emission reduction agreement with nitric acid producers	3 361 (2020) 3 361 (2015) 2 705 (2009)

Sectors affected	*List of key mitigation actions*	*Estimate of mitigation impact (kt CO_2 eq)*
	HFC and PFC emission reduction targets	NE
Agriculture	Rational use of energy in agriculture	NE
	Reduction of GHG emissions from use of fertilizers and manure	NE
Forestry	Limitation of deforestation and promotion of reforestation	NE
Waste management	Reduction in the production of waste	NE
	Optimization of waste incineration	NE
	Landfill biogas flaring and recuperation	NE

Note: The greenhouse gas emission reduction estimates, given for some measures (in parentheses) are reductions in carbon dioxide or carbon dioxide equivalent for 2009, 2015, 2020.

Abbreviations: EU ETS = European Union Emissions Trading System, GHG = greenhouse gas, NE = not estimated.

24. In its BR1, Belgium provided limited information on changes in its domestic institutional arrangements, including institutional, legal, administrative and procedural arrangements used for domestic compliance, monitoring, reporting, archiving of information and evaluation of the progress towards its target. The ERT noted that the information has not been provided in a transparent and consolidated manner in the BR1. During the review, the ERT received additional information on the topic. While a more detailed description has been provided in the NC6, it has not been cross-referenced in the BR1. The ERT recommends that Belgium provide more transparent information on changes in its domestic institutional arrangements, including by adding relevant cross references to the NC, in its next BR.

25. Belgium's commitments by 2020 under the ESD are subject to internal burden-sharing between the three Belgian regions and the federal government that is currently being negotiated. To enable it to implement the PaMs required for meeting its targets under the ESD, the Flemish Region adopted the final version of its Flemish Climate Policy Plan 2013–2020 in 2013, while the Brussels-Capital Region adopted a legal framework for PaMs, the Brussels Air-Climate-Energy Code, in 2013. The Walloon Region is drawing up a legal framework for formulating a climate plan. Another change with regard to the national inventory arrangements is that there is a person engaged full-time in the national inventory agency, the Belgian Interregional Environmental Agency, to ensure the compilation of the GHG inventory. As the designated National Inventory Compiler, the person is also responsible for the development and implementation of a quality assurance/quality control plan at the national level, including coordination between all actors to ensure that the various organizations involved in the preparation of the national inventory follow the procedures established.

26. Belgium provided, to the extent possible, detailed information on the assessment of the economic and social consequences of response measures. The BR1 highlights Belgium's actions in this regard that largely reflect the information provided in chapter 4 of the NC6 (see para. 137 of the report) including: reducing environmental pollution related to the use of fossil fuels; addressing GHG emissions of all gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol; taking actions to address market imperfections, including reducing subsidies for fossil fuels; and addressing the social and environmental impacts of biofuels, such as rises in food prices or biodiversity loss. Belgium also applies sustainability criteria in selecting

clean development mechanism projects to address environmental aspects, social sustainability, development, quality of life and labour.

2. Estimates of emission reductions and removals and the use of units from the market-based mechanisms and land use, land-use change and forestry

27. Belgium did not explain its use of market-based mechanisms under the Convention and other mechanisms to achieve its target in its BR1 and CTF table 4. Belgium reported that LULUCF emissions and removals are not included in the EU target for 2020. However, Belgium reported in CTF table 4(a)II on the contribution of LULUCF activities under the Kyoto Protocol for the period 2008–2011. Table 3 illustrates how Belgium reported on the use of units from market-based mechanisms and LULUCF to achieve its target.

Table 3
Summary information on the use of units from market-based mechanisms and land use, land-use change and forestry as part of the reporting on the progress made towards achievement of the target by Belgium

Year	*Emissions excluding LULUCF (kt CO_2 eq)*	*LULUCF[a] emissions removals (kt CO_2 eq)*	*Emissions including LULUCF (kt CO_2 eq)*	*Use of units from the market-based mechanisms (kt CO_2 eq)*
Base year (1990)	142 952.13	NA	NA	NA
2010	130 610.93	NA	NA	NR
2011	120 145.51	NA	NA	50 099.79
2012	116 520.31	NA	NA	46 168.34

Source: Greenhouse gas emission data: Belgium's 2014 inventory submission.

Abbreviations: LULUCF = land use, land-use change and forestry, NA = not applicable, NR = not reported.

[a] In common tabular format table 4, Belgium reported a contribution from the LULUCF sector of 214.77 kt CO_2 eq in 2010 and 202.96 kt CO_2 eq in 2011 as part of information on progress towards the target. The expert review team did not include these values in the table above as Belgium is a member State of the European Union, which has an unconditional commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20.0 per cent by 2020 compared with 1990 that does not include emissions/removals from LULUCF.

3. Projections

28. Belgium has provided in its BR1 and CTF tables 5 and 6 comprehensive and well-organized information on its updated projections for 2020 in a 'with measures' and a 'with additional measures' scenario. Belgium did not provide a 'without measures' scenario. A detailed review of the reported information is provided in chapter II.C of the IDR/NC6.

29. Belgium did not present the projections for 2030, which is required by the UNFCCC reporting guidelines on BRs. During the review, Belgium informed the ERT that some specific studies, such as the report *EU Energy, Transport and GHG Emissions – Trends to 2050 – Reference Scenario 2013*,[b] provide projections up to 2050 based on the PRIMES (Price Induced Model of the Energy System) model. However, as the PRIMES methodology is not consistent with the bottom-up approach currently used for reporting projections, these projections have not been included in the BR1. Belgium expected that detailed projections for 2030 (or even 2035) will be available in March 2015. The ERT took note of the efforts made by Belgium regarding its 2030 projections and recommends

[b] <http://ec.europa.eu/transport/media/publications/doc/trends-to-2050-update-2013.pdf>

that Belgium provide projections for 2030 that are consistent with the approaches used for the other years in its next submission.

30. The ERT noted that the projection of emissions and removals from LULUCF in the 'with measures' scenario in 2020 provided in table 5.17 in the NC6 (−2,113 kt CO_2 eq) is different from that provided in CTF table 6(a) in the BR1 (−2,499 kt CO_2 eq). During the review, Belgium informed the ERT this is due to the difference in the coverage of the LULUCF emission projection in the NC6 and the BR1. While the emission projection for harvested wood products is excluded in the NC6, it is included in the BR1. However, the ERT noted that even in the 'with additional measures' scenario, the projections of emissions from the LULUCF and energy sectors in 2020 provided in table 5.20 in the NC6 (95,513 kt CO_2 eq and 0 kt CO_2 eq, respectively) are different from those provided in CTF table 6(c) in the BR1 (95,833.39 kt CO_2 eq and −2,499.00 kt CO_2 eq, respectively), while the projection of total emissions excluding LULUCF in the NC6 and the BR1 are the same. Belgium informed the ERT during the review that this discrepancy is probably due to differences in the allocation of some emissions to different sectors. The ERT considers that the overall transparency of the reporting would improve if Belgium were to ensure the consistency of the projection data reported in the BR and the national communication (NC), both in total and by sector.

31. In its BR1, Belgium did not provide information on the changes since the previous NC in the methodologies used for the preparation of projections. Belgium informed the ERT during the review that there was no major change in the modelling methodology compared to the NC5, but did not provide more detailed information on the change of methodology. The ERT encourages Belgium to include information on the changes since the previous NC in the methodologies used for the preparation of projections in its next BR.

32. The ERT noted the information reported by Belgium on projected emission trends by 2020. Total emissions in 2020 are expected to be at a level that is 15.6 per cent and 16.9 per cent below the 1990 level in the 'with measures' and 'with additional measures' scenarios, respectively. However, the ERT noted that Belgium did not provide in its BR1 a separate projection for the EU ETS and non-ETS sectors that would enable an assessment by the ERT of Belgium's progress towards its target. In its NC6, Belgium indicated that its target for 2020 for the non-ETS sectors under the ESD is 66,700 kt CO_2 eq, while even in the 'with additional measures' scenario, its emissions from the non-ETS sectors are projected to be 75,700 kt CO_2 eq, which is 13.5 per cent higher than the target. Thus, for Belgium to reach its non-ETS target by 2020, it will be essential to undertake additional measures in a timely manner.

D. Provision of financial, technological and capacity-building support to developing country Parties

1. Provision of financial support to developing country Parties

33. In its BR1 and CTF tables 7, 7(a) and 7(b), Belgium reported information on the provision of financial, technological and capacity-building support required under the Convention in textual and tabular format. In CTF table 7, Belgium provides a summary of the public financial support, while CTF tables 7(a) and 7(b) contain information on public financial support provided through multilateral channels and bilateral, regional and other channels, respectively. Belgium distinguished between financial support provided for adaptation and mitigation activities and indicated the specific sector for which the resources are provided, as well as the types of instruments used in the provision of assistance. The ERT noted that Belgium did not provide the financial information in CTF tables 7, 7(a) and 7(b) in United States dollars as required by the UNFCCC reporting guidelines on BRs. The

ERT recommends that Belgium provide this information in the next BR. Table 4 includes some of the information reported by Belgium on its provision of financial support.

34. Belgium presented limited information on private finance flows leveraged through bilateral climate finance towards mitigation and adaptation activities in Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties). While acknowledging the methodological and knowledge gaps for tracking private climate finance flows, the BR1 highlights the need to continue sharing experiences and best practices with regard to efforts to mobilize private finance. Belgium participates in the Research Collaborative, coordinated and hosted by the Secretariat of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which brings together interested governments, relevant research institutions and international finance institutions in sharing best available data, expertise and information to advance policy-relevant research in a comprehensive and timely manner. During the review, Belgium explained that its Federal Ministry of Environment is working on a study on climate finance. The study will provide greater clarity on mobilized private climate finance flows. The ERT welcomed this information and encourages Belgium to report this information, to the extent possible, in its next BR.

35. In its BR1, Belgium provided details of what "new and additional" financial resources it has provided and clarified how it determined these resources as being "new and additional". Belgium described how its resources address the adaptation and mitigation needs of non-Annex I Parties. In its bilateral support, Belgium strongly supports a country-driven approach to aid delivery. Belgium also strives towards maximum aid effectiveness, in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the principles for good multilateral donorship. Belgium has rationalized its cooperation with multilateral organizations by aiming to provide them with maximum core funding and limiting earmarked contributions. The ERT commends Belgium for its complete and transparent reporting of this information.

Table 4

Summary of information on provision of financial support in 2011–2012[a]

(Millions of United States dollars)

	Years of disbursement	
Allocation channel of public financial support	*2011*	*2012*
Official development assistance	2 403.33	2 136.22
Climate-specific contributions through multilateral channels, including regional development banks	32.46	29.21
Climate-specific contributions through bilateral, regional and other channels	4.63	4.53
Fast-start finance	29.02	31.17

Sources: (1) All figures, except official development assistance and fast-start finance, are taken from Belgium's first biennial report (BR1); (2) The figures for official development assistance are taken from Belgium's sixth national communication (NC6); (3) The figures for fast-start finance are taken from the UNFCCC finance portal, available at <http://www3.unfccc.int/pls/apex/f?p=116:2:132844426053641 9>.

[a] In its BR1 and NC6, Belgium reported information on public financial support in millions of euros. The figures have been converted to United States dollars according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) exchange rates applicable to the year on a purchasing power parity basis. The OECD exchange rates are available at <http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=SNA_Table4>.

2. Approach used to track support provided

36. Belgium provided a description of its national approach for tracking the provision of financial, technological and capacity-building support to non-Annex I Parties, including information on indicators and delivery mechanisms used and allocation channels tracked. Belgium uses several approaches to track fast-start finance and climate support through official development assistance (ODA), for example annual data provided through the *EU Accountability Report on Financing for Development*.[7] The EU *Fast-Start Finance Report*, including an extensive list of examples of fast-start climate finance actions by the EU and its member States, is available on the UNFCCC website.[8] Belgium also used Rio markers to report to the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD about the ODA spent on activities to support the goals of the United Nations Rio Conventions (the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the UNFCCC) using data on climate change from the ODA databank of the Directorate General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid. Furthermore, as an EU member State, Belgium also reports under the new EU Monitoring Mechanism, which provides annual reporting of up-to-date information on financial support and technology transfer activities to developing countries based on the best available data (updated reporting mechanisms implemented from 2013).

37. The ERT noted some inconsistencies between the BR1 and the NC6 in the figures reported as the total climate-specific contribution through multilateral and bilateral channels as well as the total climate-specific contribution. During the review, Belgium informed the ERT that the information in the tables in the NC6 and the BR1 are not comparable owing to the differences in the NC and BR reporting guidelines. However, the ERT noted that the total climate-specific contribution should be the same in the two reports. The ERT encourages Belgium to ensure consistency between the information reported in the BR and that reported in the NC to improve the transparency of its reporting.

38. With regard to the most recent financial contributions of fast-start finance to enhance the implementation of the Convention by developing countries (which is approaching USD 30 billion for the period 2010–2012), Belgium has committed itself to provide new and additional resources. The fast-start finance was partially provided as ODA and partially channelled through other sources. However, the ERT noted that Belgium did not provide transparent information on its contribution to fast-start finance in the BR1.

3. Technology development and transfer

39. In its BR1, Belgium has provided limited information on activities related to the transfer of technology to developing countries, including information on the public and private sectors. However, Belgium has included references to detailed information provided in chapter 7 of the NC6, which provides information by recipient country, the target area for mitigation or adaptation, the sector involved and sources of technology transfer, along with specific examples of the provision of technology development and transfer support.

40. Belgium has also not provided the information required in CTF table 8. During the review, Belgium explained that this information has not been provided in CTF table 8, as according to the footnotes to CTF table 8, this should be done to the extent possible. Furthermore, CTF table 8 should only include measures and activities that have been developed since the last NC or BR. Since the NC6 was published just a little earlier than the BR1, there were no measures and activities to be reported in the BR other than those reported in the NC6. However, the ERT noted that according to decision 2/CP.17, the BR1

[7] <http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/piebalgs/multimedia/pdf/eu-accountability-report-2014-on-financing-for-development_en.pdf>.

[8] <http://unfccc.int/cooperation_support/financial_mechanism/fast_start_finance/items/5646.php>.

and the NC6 were to be submitted together, and therefore in this case, the BR1 should contain information on developments that have taken place since the NC5. The ERT recommends that Belgium either report, to the extent possible, complete information in CTF table 8 or clearly explain why it was not possible to provide this information in the next submission.

41. In its BR1, Belgium did not distinguish between activities undertaken by the public and private sectors related to technology transfer implemented or planned since its last NC. The ERT recommends that Belgium distinguish between activities undertaken by the public and private sectors in the provision of technology transfer and capacity-building support in its next BR.

4. Capacity-building

42. In its BR1 and CTF table 9, Belgium has provided information on how it has provided capacity-building support that responds to the existing and emerging capacity-building needs identified by non-Annex I Parties. Capacity-building is a standard aspect in Belgium's bilateral agreements and the key aspect in fast-start finance. Furthermore, Belgium supports various bodies through indirect cooperation, particularly non-governmental organizations, scientific institutions and universities, which play an important role in development through the provision of information to the public, capacity-building and awareness-raising. The ERT noted that Belgium has not reported information in CTF table 9. Belgium may wish to enhance the completeness of its reporting by providing the required information in CTF table 9 in the next submission.

III. Conclusions

43. The ERT conducted a technical review of the information reported in the BR1 and CTF tables of Belgium in accordance with the UNFCCC reporting guidelines on BRs. The ERT concludes that the BR1 and CTF tables provide a good overview of information on: emissions and removals related to the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target, a description of the target, progress made by Belgium to achieve its target, and the provision of support to developing country Parties. During the review, Belgium provided additional information on the major drivers of emissions, changes in its domestic institutional arrangements, projections and the provision of finance and technology support to developing country Parties.

44. Belgium's emissions and removals related to the target were estimated for 2012 to be 18.5 per cent below its 1990 level excluding LULUCF and 19.0 per cent below including LULUCF. Emission decreases were driven by the fuel switch from solid fuels to gaseous fuels, the more efficient use of energy, increased use of biomass and cogeneration, reduced activity in the iron and steel sector, biogas recovery in solid waste disposal sites, a drop in the livestock population and changes in agricultural practices. These factors outweighed the increase in GDP, the population growth, and the increase in traffic and the number of dwellings.

45. Belgium is committed to achieving the joint EU quantified economy-wide target to achieve a 20.0 per cent reduction in emissions by 2020 compared with the 1990 (base year) level. The target for the EU and its member States will be achieved through the EU 2020 climate and energy package. Among the key PaMs in this package are the EU ETS and the ESD.

46. The ESD regulates emissions of CO_2, CH_4, N_2O, HFCs, PFCs and SF_6 using GWP values from the AR4 of the IPCC to aggregate EU GHG emissions up to 2020. The target

covers emissions from the energy, transport, industrial processes, agriculture, waste and aviation sectors, while the LULUCF sector is excluded.

47. Across the EU, the EU ETS sectors (mainly large point sources such as power plants and industrial facilities) are expected to achieve a 21.0 per cent emission reduction compared with the 2005 level by 2020. For the non-ETS sectors, the 2020 EU target has been translated through the ESD to a 15.0 per cent reduction target (compared with the 2005 level) for Belgium.

48. The BR1 contains an extensive list of PaMs to be implemented at both the federal and regional levels across all sectors to ensure the achievement of Belgium's national GHG emission reduction target. The National Climate Commission is responsible for the regular monitoring and evaluation of the impact of PaMs in the NCP. Among the significant PaMs that are supposed to deliver the main emission reductions towards the national target are: the EU ETS; green and/or CHP certificates; financial support for reduced energy use and the use of RES in the residential sector; and the improvement and promotion of public transport.

49. According to the reported information, Belgium's total emissions (including both the ETS and non-ETS sectors) in 2020 are projected to be 15.6 per cent and 16.9 per cent below the 1990 level in the 'with measures' and 'with additional measures' scenarios, respectively. In its NC6, Belgium indicated that its target for 2020 for the non-ETS sectors under the ESD is 66,700 kt CO_2 eq. while its emissions from the non-ETS sectors even in the 'with additional measures' scenario are projected to be 75,700 kt CO_2 eq. which is 13.5 per cent higher than the target. Thus, for Belgium to reach its non-ETS target by 2020, it will be essential to undertake additional measures in a timely manner.

50. Belgium reported information on the provision of financial, technological and capacity-building support required under the Convention in a textual and tabular format. Belgium reported decreasing trends in flows of financial resources due to budgetary restrictions. Belgium provided details of what "new and additional" financial resources it has provided and clarified how these resources are "new and additional".

51. In the course of the review, the ERT formulated several recommendations relating to the completeness and transparency of Belgium's reporting under the Convention. The key recommendations[9] are that Belgium:

(a) Submit the next BR and CTF tables within the deadline as mandated by the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Improve the completeness of the reporting by including in the next BR the following:

(i) Information on the possible contribution of market-based mechanisms under the Convention to the achievement of its target;

(ii) Information on changes in its domestic institutional arrangements;

(iii) Information on emission projections for 2030;

(iv) Information on technology transfer to developing country Parties in CTF table 8;

(c) Improve the transparency of the reporting by including in the next BR the following:

(i) Information on the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target consistent with the EU target under the Convention;

[9] The recommendations are given in full in the relevant sections of this report.

(ii) The financial information in CTF tables 7, 7(a) and 7(b) in United States dollars;

(iii) Information on technology transfer to developing country Parties, clearly distinguishing between activities undertaken by the public and private sectors.

Annex

Documents and information used during the review

A. Reference documents

"UNFCCC biennial reporting guidelines for developed country Parties". Annex to decision 2/CP.17.
Available at <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/cop17/eng/09a01.pdf#page=4>.

"Guidelines for the technical review of information reported under the Convention related to greenhouse gas inventories, biennial reports and national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention". Annex to decision 23/CP.19. Available at <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/cop19/eng/10a02.pdf#page=20>.

FCCC/ARR/2013/BEL. Report of the individual review of the annual submission of Belgium submitted in 2013. Available at <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2014/arr/bel.pdf>.

FCCC/IRR/2007/BEL. Report of the review of the initial report of Belgium. Available at <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2007/irr/bel.pdf>.

Sixth national communication of Belgium. Available at <http://unfccc.int/national_reports/annex_i_natcom/submitted_natcom/items/7742.php>.

First biennial report of Belgium. Available at <http://unfccc.int/national_reports/biennial_reports_and_iar/submitted_biennial_reports/items/7550.php>.

Common tabular format tables of Belgium. Available at <http://unfccc.int/national_reports/biennial_reports_and_iar/submitted_biennial_reports/items/7550.php>.

2013 GHG inventory submission of Belgium. Available at <http://unfccc.int/national_reports/annex_i_ghg_inventories/national_inventories_submissions/items/7383.php>.

2014 GHG inventory submission of Belgium. Available at <http://unfccc.int/national_reports/annex_i_ghg_inventories/national_inventories_submissions/items/7383.php>.

B. Additional information provided by the Party

Responses to questions during the review were received from Ms. Laurence de Clock (Climate Change Section of the Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment in the Directorate General for the Environment), including additional material on updated policies and measures, greenhouse gas projections, the national registry and recent climate policy developments in Belgium. The following documents[1] were also provided by Belgium:

National Climate Commission. 2010. *Belgian National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy*. Available at <www.climatechange.be>.

[1] Reproduced as received from the Party.

Flemish Ministry for Environment, Nature and Culture. *Flemish Climate Policy Plan 2013-2020: A summary*. Available at <http://www.flanders.be/en/publications/detail/the-flemish-climate-policy-plan-2013-2020-1>.